

BOARD BRIEFS

July 16, 2009

Public Hearing: A Public Hearing of the Board of Education, West Carroll Community Unit School District No. 314, was held in the WC Intermediate School Library/Media Center, 801 South Street, Thomson, Illinois. President Boyd called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

Administration present: Superintendent Mathers

Principal Ashby, Katzenberger, and Lamb

Members present: Atherton, Boyd, Brigham, Highland, Kilpatrick, Sweeney

Members absent: Klein

Others present: Brad Field, Media (Gengenbach, Miller, Nester)

Discussion was held to authorize a permanent interfund transfer from the Education Fund into the Transportation Fund pursuant to Section 17-2A of Illinois School Code.

Public Comment - None

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, West Carroll Community Unit School District No. 314, was held in the WC Intermediate School Library/Media Center, 801 South Street, Thomson, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by President Boyd at 6:35 p.m.

Administration present: Superintendent Mathers

Principal Ashby, Katzenberger, and Lamb

Members present: Atherton, Boyd, Brigham, Highland, Kilpatrick, Sweeney

Members absent: Klein

Others present: Brad Field and Media (Gengenbach, Miller, Nester)

Regular Meeting and Closed Session minutes from June 18, 2009 were approved. Special Meeting and Closed Session minutes from June 22, 29, July 1, and 6, 2009 were approved. Financial reports and payment of bills as presented were approved.

Public Comments - None

Correspondence

- Thank you from Pat Davis for his retirement gift.
- Letter to the Carroll County Zoning Board written by Superintendent Mathers as directed by the Board on June 18, 2009.

Administrative Reports

Principal Lamb reported that he is still looking for a couple of coaches for the new school year. The high school will have several staff changes – four new people, one returning to the building and one transferring within the building. Lamb is seeing improvements from the health and life/safety work at the high school. The contractors are three days ahead of schedule.

Principal Katzenberger has scheduled an informal “Meet the Teacher Night” at WCMS on Monday, August 17. There is a “Meet the Coach” time scheduled earlier in the evening. Katzenberger congratulated Janis Jones for her success in receiving a \$550.00 grant from the Illinois Reading Council. Her project is “Teaching Writing to Middle School Students with Picture Books”. 7th and 8th grade volleyball practice will begin Monday, August 10 with the first game scheduled for August 24th. The PTO has donated \$250.00 to WCMS to help with a school wide Math Program. WCMS sponsored a Relay for Life team – Thunder Wonder. They raised \$750.00 for the recent Relay for Life event. Katzenberger reported that the building looks great inside and out.

Principal Ashby stated that the last day of summer school was July 2. The overall attendance rate was 89%. The session started with 122 students and ended with 105. Pre/post test results showed that 75% of the students increased scores in reading and 79% increased skills in math. West Carroll Primary made AYP. Ashby reported that 76.6% of the students meet/exceed state standards in reading and 86.2% meet/exceed state standards in math. WCPS received a \$2,000 Illinois Reading Council Grant. The PTO donated \$250.00 to the Primary School. The City of Savanna has a program finding area youth summer work. Two students from that program worked on weeding the Butterfly Garden and other areas at the Primary school. Everything is looking great. Mrs. Ashby is trying to find someone to take over the care of the Butterfly Garden. There will be a “Meet the Teacher” night on August 17 at the Primary School.

Mrs. Delp, Intermediate Principal, was not in attendance. Her report was included in the mail out packet to the board members for their review.

Superintendent Mathers reports that the health and life/safety work at the high school is moving along quickly. There is rumor that the project is behind schedule but that is not correct. The project is expected to be finished by August 7. Board members received the latest construction meeting reviews. West Carroll PTO meeting minutes were made available to board members. Mr. Mathers wants to make sure that the Board is aware of the goals of the PTO. The PTO donated \$325.00 to the district for the teachers “Welcome Back Breakfast”. Mark Hansen, Eastland superintendent is doing a dissertation this school year and will be collecting information from area teachers. As a part of this dissertation an observer trained and certified in the Instructional Practices Inventory will conduct classroom sweeps. Data from the survey will be available upon completion if the district would like the information. The JoDaviess-Carroll AVC held their budget hearing on July 8, 2009. Their budget is dependent on grant appropriations from the state. District registration is scheduled for July 28 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and July 29 from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. New staff orientation is scheduled for August 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. to help new staff become acclimated to the district.

Brad Field reported he is working on software updates. Jeff Holley is doing individual updates and working on setting up the new computers. The student information software used by the district (STI) and EdLine (parent communication software) have become partners. Hopefully, this will streamline the communication between the two computer programs. Field is gearing up for registration. He will have a technology table at registration to get information to parents regarding EdLine and other related issues. The media will run a story on EdLine in the future. Field plans to host an open lab to help educate parents on the use of EdLine. The contractor at the high school will remount some of the hardware items that had to be taken down earlier this summer. Field informed the Board that there is a new state mandate regarding online safety and students. The district will need to incorporate a computer safety unit in grades 3 – 12 and have a curriculum plan in place to be in compliance. Mr. Mathers advised board members that the administrative team has been discussing this particular issue and the state of Illinois has a course that will be available for district use.

Board Committee Reports - NoneOld Business

Superintendent Mathers gave an overview of the 3rd grade swimming lesson program. The results of the program were very positive and it was a great opportunity for our students. Some students didn't participate by their own choice but all students who did participate went up a level in experience. Mathers asked the Board if they would like to see the program continue. Several members voiced their support of the program and would like to see it continue. Highland would like to see this program become part of the physical education curriculum requiring all students to participate. Kilpatrick asked why only 3rd grade students participated in the program. It was decided that 3rd grade would manage the process of changing clothes and getting back and forth to the pool, locker room, and bus. Highland would like to see the district adopt a policy prohibiting students in grades lower than 3rd from attending school sponsored pool parties. Boyd requested that a concise and clear recommendation be brought forth at the next meeting for board action. The recommendation should include all requirements regarding age levels and swim parties.

Only one fuel bid was received; Carroll Service Company. Carroll Service Company was the district supplier for 2008-2009. The bid for 2009-2010 is \$2.30 lower per gallon of diesel and \$1.56 lower for unleaded from last year's bid. The prices are subject to change with market conditions. Boyd stated it may be necessary to change the bid specification to make things more competitive in the future. Fuel bid from Carroll Service Company was approved.

Destruction of the November 14, 2007 regular meeting-closed session tape was approved.

New Business

A loan to the Transportation Fund from the Education Fund was approved June 18, 2009. Any loan not made permanent must be repaid within 3 years.

Repayment of the loan for \$208,092 from the Transportation Fund to the Education Fund was approved.

The Board held a public hearing in order to authorize an interfund transfer from the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund. The funds originally came from Working Cash as part of the bond issue completed in August, 2008. The funds were transferred by a Working Cash Abatement in June, 2009 to Education.

Resolution authorizing an interfund transfer for \$208,092 from the Education Fund to the Transportation Fund was approved.

Due to increased class numbers in Spanish at West Carroll High School, a scheduling and curriculum adaptation is required at WCMS. Spanish has been part of the middle school exploratory wheel for both 7th and 8th grade. With the high school adding another section of Spanish for 2009-2010, another option was needed to fill this void. Mrs. Katzenberger is recommending a nine week exploratory class for 8th grade students entitled "Cultures Around the World".

Middle school exploratory rotation for 2009-2010 was approved.

Superintendent Mathers and Principal Lamb are working to plan for the future and respond to community members who have expressed interest in more drivers' education instructional opportunities. The current staff at the high school can only instruct 90 students per year. The current 8th grade class has 122 students enrolled. Many parents have been using Drive Safe in Dixon due to class space and the new "Graduated Driver's License" requirement. Summer instruction would be a way to expand district offerings.

It will be necessary to raise the fee the district charges for Driver's Education. The state limit is \$50. There have been successful waivers filed with the State of Illinois for "up to \$250". The fee does not have to go to the approved limit but it is recommended that the district needs to look at the opportunity to offer driver's education as a summer course. At \$50-\$75 the class will not pay for itself. To raise the driver's education fee a public hearing must be held and a waiver must be filed with the State of Illinois for their approval.

Approved a public hearing prior to August 14, 2009 for the purpose of filing a waiver for up to \$250.00 for Driver's Education fees.

A public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at West Carroll Intermediate School Library/Media Center.

Meeting dates for the regular meetings of the West Carroll Board of Education for 2009-2010 were approved.

Mr. Mathers is asking permission to the letting of bids for snow removal for 2009-2010. The bid will be for the high school and primary school.

Letting of bids for snow removal for 2009-2010 was approved.

An addition to the Illinois Administrative Code requires the development of a workload plan for special educators. The plan is required to be in place by 2009-2010 and be reviewed every two years. The plan includes all the steps taken to analyze the services needed for a special education student. The plan acknowledges the multiple areas of responsibility that are required to administer an Individual Education Plan. The plan is not part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and it is not part of the grievance procedure.

West Carroll Workload Plan for Special Educators as first reading was approved.

Closed Session

Board entered closed session at 8:07 p.m. for appointment, employment, discipline, performance or dismissal or removal of specific employees; collective bargaining matters or consideration of salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and the purchase or lease of real property or setting of a price for sale or lease of district property. The Board returned to open session at 9:15 p.m.

The transfer of Casey Gehant from the WCIS Resource Room to the WCHS as a Special Education Teacher was approved.

The transfer of LeaAnn Michels from the WCMS Resource Room to the WCIS as a Special Education Teacher was approved.

Employed Michael Spencer as a full time Special Education teacher at WCMS and as a coach for the 7th Grade Boys Basketball team for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

Jeff Holley as Athletic Director supervisor during the 2009 – 2010 school year for Fall/Winter sports and Josh Knuth as Athletic Director supervisor during the 2009 – 2010 school year for Spring sports was approved.

The Board approved a 2% salary increase for the Department Heads for the 2009 – 2010 school year. A 2% salary increase plus a \$500 lump sum payment each for the District Office Staff for the 2009 – 2010 school year was approved. Those employees who take the cash option versus health insurance will receive an additional \$25.00 per month for a total of \$175.00.

A one year contract for Superintendent Mathers with a 3% increase in salary (\$115,875), one additional day of vacation per year (21 days), and four additional days of sick leave (17 days) accumulative to 360 days was approved.

The Board ratified the negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2009 – 2012 between the West Carroll Board of Education and the West Carroll Educational Support Personnel Association.

The Board approved for Pat Fuller a limited leave of absence without pay for educational purposes for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.